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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant** : **Mohammad A. Laham, et al.**

**Title of Invention** : **MAINTENANCE SYSTEM AND  
METHOD FOR AN OPTICAL SWITCH  
FABRIC**

**Serial No.** : **09/884,369**

**Date Filed** : **June 19, 2001**

**Attorney Docket No.** : **312/3**

**Box Amendment**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**Washington, DC 20231**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced application by adding the following text under the title:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:**

a1  
This application claims priority of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial  
No. 60/238,363, filed on October 6, 2000.

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is made to claim the benefit of an earlier filed provisional application regarding the subject matter of this application.